

Bell companies operate an "essential facility", and should have to accommodate other ISP firms that wish to purchase access from them. This wholesale provisioning will stimulate competition and be of benefit to the consumers. I strongly urge the FCC to continue to require ILECs to accommodate other Internet Service Providers that wish to purchase wholesale access from them. Failure to do so would cripple the 1996 Telecommunications Act. The competition in this area vastly improves the products and services available to consumers, in an area so vital to our present and future economy. Small businesses will clearly be the most affected by such competition or the lack of it, and the overall effect on the economy can be considerable.